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REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated January 30, 2003, claims 1-31 and 96-100 were pending. Claims 1-24 and 96-100 were rejected. Claims 25-31 were objected to.

A response to the Final Office Action was filed on March 31, 2003 and an Advisory Action dated April 28, 2003 was received indicating that the response was not entered.

In this response, claims 1-24 and 96-100 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 25-31 have been amended. While Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's position is correct on the merits, Applicant has sought to obtain the claims which were objected to. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time to respond to the pending Office Action, and a check for the extension fee is enclosed. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 5/27, 2003

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